

THE JEWISH DAILY

FORWARD



DECEMBER 1981

שער זהב

Kislev/Tevet 5742

## A HOME OF OUR OWN!!

### Chapter Six: Moving On!

The campaign to have a Home of Own Own is moving on. Our initial visions of moving very quickly to secure a building are being re-evaluated: To have the Bush Street synagogue, the building we most want, we will have to proceed more slowly than we had hoped.

Some major developments in the past month:

We have retained the law firm of Timothy Tosta to deal with the Redevelopment Agency in securing the building. This firm has an excellent reputation and has dealt with Redevelopment over the past several years on a number of cases. Redevelopment appears to be very interested in having us buy the building, but they have extensive bureaucratic procedures. It has been a long process leading to the retention of legal counsel, and many people in our Congregation

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!

The February 21 Sha'ar Zahav Benefit Concert featuring RUTH HASTINGS & COMPANY at the Warfield Theater is looking for people interested in assisting as ushers, stage crew, in the box office, with publicity, etc. Please contact Aaron Cooper at 549-0505.

have donated excellent volunteer research and opinions, both professional and amateur, to get us where we are today.

On November 17 and 18, we conducted a telethon campaign to contact Congregation members who had not yet pledged their fair share for the building campaign. Hal Nappan, our building campaign consultant, worked closely with the volunteers who did the phoning. We raised an additional \$30,000 to bring the campaign total to \$190,000. Our goal is to have 100% of the Congregation pledge to the campaign as quickly as possible, we hope by the end of the month.

We plan to expand the campaign to the lesbian, gay, historic preservation and Jewish communities. Our drive to ask for money and support from these communities will come after we have some definite commitment from Redevelopment and the City about ownership rights to "Bush Street."

Again, if you haven't seen the unusual and impressive (but badly in need of a facelift) synagogue at Bush and Laguna Streets, take a detour. See for yourself what we will be buying. In these times when it is so hard for many of us to afford a home of our own, this can satisfy some of our desires on a collective basis: For many of us, lots more living and growing space.

-Mark Feldman



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As you read this issue of the Forward, Cheryl Orvis, Irene Ogus, Allen Bennett, Rob Montague and I will be representing the Congregation as we are accepted into membership in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The National Biennial in Boston and the future conferences of the West Coast Region will provide members of the Congregation with learning and leadership experiences. The resources and programs of the Union will give important support as we grow and develop to meet the needs of our members. The UAHC, representative of Reform Judaism, respects and supports a diversity of religious tradition and recognizes the non-traditional and unique outreach of our Congregation to the lesbian and gay community.

On November 15, the Congregation held its first open house for new members. More than 20 new members had an opportunity to meet each other, members of the Va'ad and committee chairs, and to learn about the activities and programs currently being offered. The afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended, especially by new members who live in communities as distant as Sacramento and San Jose. With the success of the function, we have made a decision to hold new member programs on a regular basis throughout the year.

The Congregation's annual Chanukah Latke party has long been one of our most fun evenings. This year's celebration, on Friday night, December 25, will be highlighted by the drawing of prizes in the Chanukah Art Raffle. Please join with the hundreds of pounds of potatoes, matzo meal, onions and eggs to celebrate

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Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard (Chad) Cohen, Catherine G. Nelson (chair), Charles Norton and Richard Usem.

this festival of freedom and dedication. Participate in the choosing of favorite regional latke toppings---plain, sugar, applesauce or sour cream. But most of all, plan to be together with other members of our community to share the richness of our Jewish heritage.

-Paul J. Cohen

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, VA'AD REPORT

With exactly the number of members needed to constitute a quorum, the semi-annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, November 1 at the JCC. The primary item of business at that meeting was the approval of two By-Laws changes recommended by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. This being done, the way was cleared for the congregation's acceptance into UAHC membership, which will formally occur at the UAHC convention in Boston in early December.

Following a highly successful, well-attended New Members' Tea on Sunday, November 15, the Va'ad convened for its regular monthly meeting. Business transacted included a decision to reinstitute a year-old policy of sending the Jewish Gaily Forward to non-members on the sign-up list for three months only, while offering them the opportunity to extend this period on a subscription basis.

Preparing to represent the congregation at the UAHC convention in Boston are Paul Cohen, President; Cheryl Orvis, Vice-President; Irene Ogus, Treasurer; Rabbi Allen Bennett; and Rob Montague, immediate past co-leader.

Committee news included the announcement that with Bikur Cholim chair Sandy Pomerantz's resignation, the committee seeks a new head; Social Action Committee is continuing to recruit members (phone chair Ken Mauss, 771-7791), and a subcommittee of Ritual has been formed to create a new High Holy Days prayerbook.

The Va'ad meeting was adjourned following the acceptance into the congregation of 26 new members.



## FROM WHERE I STAND

We are moving into that time of year when many of us in the religion "business" find ourselves pulled in two directions. On the one hand, even before the beginning of November, some of our more forward-looking commercial establishments have already begun their holiday advertising. Even before we have had the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving, we are awash in the hoopla of Christmas, not to mention the token recognition of the reality of the Jewish observance of Chanukah.

On the other hand, we are faced with the increasingly rare, but vitally important, religious observance, both in homes and in places of worship, where we can be together as a spiritual community, renewing our ties seasonally, using a religious setting to reaffirm our togetherness, our being a family.

Chanukah is the only holiday we observe which commemorates a military victory, a victory by the Jews against pagan forces at the time of the religious persecutions by the Greco-Syrians in the years 168-165 BCE. All the other holidays we observe find their origins in the Bible, and most are tied to agricultural origins. Chanukah has no such claim, and to some, for that reason, has lost its claim to inclusion. While it is

true that we observe it as a minor holiday (unless we get carried away by the commercialism of what goes on around us), Chanukah has encouraged many a small group to fight against injustice and oppression. It was a source of inspiration in the movement to liberate Israel and to establish it as an independent State. And it has stimulated Jews to withstand assimilation and the temptation of false gods, championing the ideals of our heritage in the midst of an overwhelming majority, and stressing Jewish culture in the face of a vast culture seeking to engulf us.

Particularly in these days when we see the rise of the ultra-conservative "radical religious right wing," we are reminded that the children of Mattathias were confronted as well by a religious system that did not ring true to them, and which threatened their own religious freedom. Judah, the Maccabee, led the revolt which spearheaded the struggle for religious freedom. We can take a lesson from the Maccabees at this season, remembering that our celebration exists so that we can remain alert to those who would deny us our freedom, even in the name of religion.

-Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

## PROJECT REUNITE FUNDED

Gay and lesbian Jews and their families are the focus of a new project supported by the Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Welfare Federation of San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula. This marks the first time the JWF has targeted money specifically for gay and lesbian Jews.

Under the auspices of Jewish Family & Children's Service, Project Reunite will develop and implement a program to assist families where the presence of a gay or lesbian member has created family upset, confusion, or alienation.

The 10-month project will first create guidelines for helping these troubled families, and later will work with them towards improved understanding and positive affiliation.

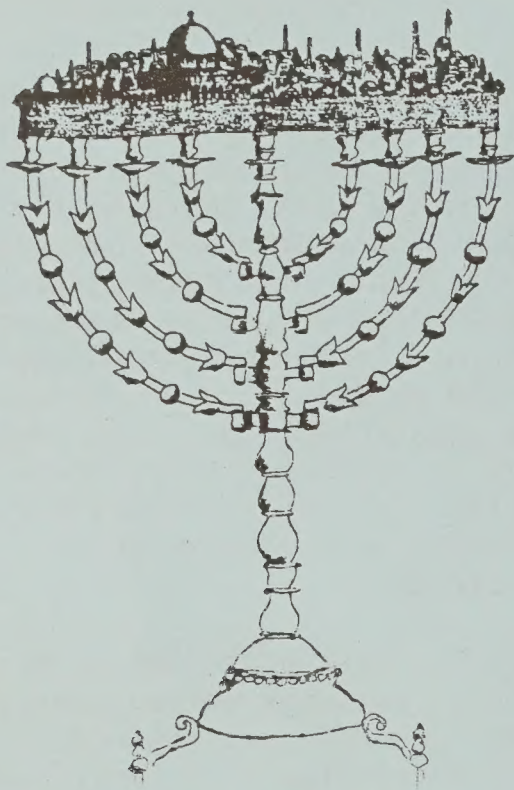
Project Reunite co-directors Aaron Cooper, Ph.D. and Pat Blumenthal, Ph.D.

are psychologists experienced in working with both families and gay people. Aaron, a member of Sha'ar Zahav's Va'ad, is in private practice in the East Bay specializing in couples and families. Pat serves as Family Life Education Coordinator at JF&CS.

Project Reunite is presently seeking members of both "conflicted" and "non-conflicted" families, to develop the guidelines for helping families having difficulties with these issues.

Gay and lesbian Jews with families residing in the greater Bay Area and willing to be interviewed during the development phase of the project, and mental health professionals or others who have worked with families of gay people (Jewish and non-Jewish) are asked to contact Aaron Cooper at 724-4443.






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**THANKS!**

More than 50 donations were received during October---most of them from people who attended Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Many may not wish their names publicized so, rather than acknowledge them individually, we would like to thank all of you for joining us in worship, for your generosity and for the loving messages that accompanied many gifts. Some samples:

I attended Yom Kippur services...they were very meaningful and I appreciate having a place where I feel comfortable.

Thank you for opening your High Holiday services to all. The best of New Years.

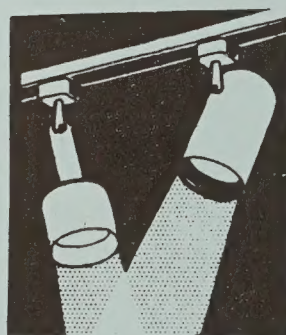
Thank you for a wonderful Rosh Hashana service.

Thank you for opening your doors to the residents of Menorah Park.

Enclosed is an expression of appreciation for the Yom Kippur services. I enjoyed them very much.

...and thank you again,

-Irene Ogus  
Treasurer



**ART AUCTION POSTPONED**










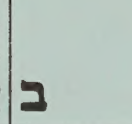
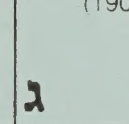

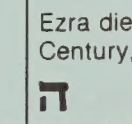
The Sha'ar Zahav Art Auction has been postponed until later next year. We want to thank everyone who promised a donation and ask that the donation be held until our future event.

As for now---our Chanukah raffle offers everyone a chance to win some wonderful prizes.



# DECEMBER

# כסלו | טבת

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 FOLK DANCING!! After Services. Nancy Meyer	5 Golda Meir died (5739)
6	7	8 First Jewish child born in Canada (1764)	9	10 Newsletter Deadline	11	12
י	יא	יב	יג	יד	טו	טז
13 Va'd Meeting 621-2871	14 Newsletter Committee 621-0628	15	16 Education Committee 621-2871	17	18	19
יז	יח	יט	כ	כא	כב	כג
20	Hanukkah 21	Hanukkah 22	Hanukkah 23	Hanukkah 24	Hanukkah 25	Hanukkah 26 Rosh Hodesh Tevet
						
Hanukkah 27 Rosh Hodesh Tevet	Hanukkah 28	29 JNF founded (1901)	30	31 Ezra died (5th Century, BCE)		
						
		According to tradition, the 5th of Tevet marks the <i>yahrzeit</i> (anniversary of the death) of Ezra the Scribe. Ezra led the group of exiles from Babylonia back to Jerusalem in the 5th century BCE. He taught the people the laws of the Torah and helped the new settlers build the Second Temple				

Friday,  
December 4  
Torah Va-Yetze  
Genesis 28:10 - 32:3  
Haftorah Hosea 12:13 - 14:10  
Laurie Radovsky and Nina Wouk,  
Services

Friday,  
December 11  
Torah Va-Yeshlah  
Genesis 32:4 - 36:43  
Haftorah Hosea 11:7 - 12:12  
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services  
Irene Ogus, Sermon

Friday,  
December 18  
Torah Va-Yeshev  
Genesis 37:1 - 40:23  
Haftorah Amos 2:6 - 3:8  
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett and  
Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Friday,  
December 25  
Chanukah Service  
Torah Miketz  
Genesis 41:1 - 44:17  
Special Chanukah Portion  
Numbers 7:42 - 47  
Special Haftorah Isaiah 66:1-24  
Rosh Chodesh Tevet  
Special Rosh Chodesh Portion  
Numbers 28:9 - 15  
Steven Fritsch Rudser and  
Ritual Committee, Services  
Scott Chase and Richard Look,  
Music

Everyone is welcome to join us for Shabbat services each Friday at 8:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street (at Presidio), San Francisco.





## The Story of Chanukah

About 2100 years ago, the **Syrians** ruled over the **Jews** who lived in the ancient land now known as Israel. The Syrian **King Antiochus IV** did not allow the Jews to worship freely to one God but instead, commanded them to bow down to many Greek idols.

In the town of Modin, not far from Jerusalem, lived an old priest named **Mattathias**. He stirred his people to rebel against the Syrians. He and his five sons fled into the Judean hills, and together with many other Jews, waged guerrilla warfare against the Syrian army. This band of plain folk, mostly farmers and shepherds, was led by **Judah the Maccabee** ("the Hammer"), son of Mattathias. Because Judah was such a brilliant leader, the Jews emerged victorious after many battles and against all odds.

When the Maccabees and their army returned to Jerusalem, they found their Temple in ruins. They cleansed it and rededicated it. On the 25th day of Kslev, in the year 165 B.C.E. Judah called the people together and lit the **Menorah** (candlabra) to offer thanks and mark a new period of freedom.

In commemoration of this occasion, it was decreed that on that same day every year, Jews should celebrate **Chanukah**, or the **Festival of Dedication**. This is done by burning lights for eight days, adding a new light each night until all eight lights are burning. The Shamash, or helper candle, is raised above the other lights in the Menorah, and is used to light the candles each night. Blessings and songs accompany this ceremony.

An explanation is offered by the Talmud for the eight day period of celebration. When the priests were preparing for the dedication of the Temple, no oil could be found to light the Menorah. After a long search, a small vessel of unprofaned oil was found. It was enough to last only for one day. The oil burned for eight days, however, and was proclaimed a miracle. It is customary to say "**a Great Miracle Happened There!**"

The four letters on the sides of the dreidel, or four-sided top, used for a traditional Chanukah game, are the Hebrew letters which stand for this saying.

Chanukah is a joyous time with songs of freedom and thanksgiving. It is customary to give Chanukah gelt or coins to children and friends. A traditional food is the latke, or pancake, which is fried in oil and reminds us of the oil used to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem.

**Every year, on Chanukah, in the homes of Jewish people around the world, Menorahs are lit and our struggle for religious freedom is once again remembered.**

## ONEG, LTD.

My thanks to everyone who has sponsored Onegs. Good news: Now, you may charge an oneg on your VISA or MasterCard. Just call me at 776-1289 after 7:00 p.m. We urge everyone to sponsor an oneg and to get involved. It's so much fun. If you have done it, try it. You'll like it! The cost is approximately \$30.00.

-David Ben-Jacob



## NOVEMBER ONEGS

- November 6 by Scott Chase, in honor of his grandmother's 90th birthday
- November 13 by Nancy Meyer and Irene Ogus, in honor of their second anniversary
- November 20 by David Ben-Jacob, in honor of his second year with Eyler, his birthday and his father
- November 27 by the Congregation, for everyone's enjoyment

## NEW ARK FOR BET MISHPACHAH

From the newsletter of our sibling congregation in Washington, D.C., we learn that Bet Mishpachah used its new ark and curtain for the first time at Rosh Hashanah services. Sha'ar Zahavniks look forward to seeing what we understand to be a beautiful work of art during future visits.

## GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED!

Wondering what to give your cousin Mergatroyd, who has always outdone everyone one presents, for a birthday gift? Even Mergatroyd can't top this: Sha'ar Zahav now can help you on these important occasions with a beautiful card (with or without the lambda in our logo) to announce that a gift has been made to the Congregation in honor or in memory of anyone, on any occasion. Call Ernie Weinstein at 566-1985 for details.



## OPPORTUNITIES...

The Unitarian-Universalist Gay and Lesbian Caucus will present, in the ongoing Day Series, a discussion on "The Gay Movement Is Alive and Well and Functioning in San Francisco" on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin at Geary, San Francisco. Representatives of SOLIDARITY/Gay and Lesbian Liberation will present the program and accomplishments of this groups whose members pursue the goals of our movement outside of electoral politics.

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER



A REMINDER that it is never too early to plan on attending the SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN JEWS in Los Angeles over the Fourth of July weekend, 1982. Our sisters and brothers at Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim welcome ideas and suggestions. Write to them at 6000 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

## MUSIC CHAVURAH

The music chavurah has gotten off to a flying start! We have had two meetings thus far, with about 20 people expressing interest. Many exciting projects have been suggested, including more vocal and instrumental music at services, folk dancing (see the calendar---Nancy Meyer will teach folk dancing after services on December 4), production of a Sha'ar Zahav songbook, and informal musical get-togethers. We hope to explore music of various languages and cultures, including Ladino and Falasha music, in addition to the obvious Hebrew and Yiddish. Our first project will be the preparation of music for our Chanukah service and party. The group is very informal and we welcome anyone with an interest in making music. Please contact Scott Chase at 768-5396 (days) or 863-1998 (evenings) if you're interested.

## RYNECKI EXHIBIT

Moshe Rynecki: View of Poland, an exhibition of painting chronicling the lives of Polish Jewry from the turn of the century to the Holocaust, will be shown at the Magnes Museum through January 17, 1982. The exhibition, sponsored by the Women's Guild of the Museum, marks the opening of the Museum's new facilities, including the Esther and Jacques Reutlinger Gallery. It is the first museum showing of Rynecki's work in the United States.

Rynecki, who was born in Poland in 1881 and dies in the concentration camp Majdanek in 1943, captured an era of hope, brilliance and, ultimately, despair in some 800 paintings and sketches. Almost 800 of his works were stolen or destroyed, and of the remnant recovered by his wife, Pearl Mittelsbach Rynecki, the Women's Guild has selected 35 pieces for this centennial exhibition.

The Magnes Museum is located at 2991 Russell Street in Berkeley. Call 849-2710 for information on hours, docent-led tours and directions.



## A C.S.Z. LITERARY MAGAZINE?

In these past weeks, we have received a number of fine pieces written by members and friends of the Congregation---"think pieces," they're called. Because a newsletter is generally concerned with timely information, and this one is somewhat limited in space, we have been thinking about instituting an annual (or semi-annual) Sha'ar Zahav literary magazine. We do have the intellectual resources, and will find the financial resources if we have the interest.

What do you think? Would you like to see our Congregation undertake such a publishing project? Are you willing to contribute your own writings? We'd like to have some feedback. Write to the Newsletter Committee, or call the synagogue office at 621-0628. We're waiting to hear from you!



## LETTERS...WE GET LETTERS...

Dear Members of the Newsletter Committee:

I have had mixed emotions about the synagogue, as I have about my sexuality.

Your October issue of the Forward has convinced me that whatever my reservations have been, I think that your group, whatever its label--synagogue, social club or whatever--has a sincere, dedicated and wonderful group of people, of whom I want to be a part.

Due to my recent move, I received the Forward late and was unaware of the Sukkot celebration at Harry Lutrin's home. I would have loved to attend; I have a great respect for Harry.

I love all of you and all of your fine goals. Please send me membership information.

Sincerely,  
H.M.L.

*It is letters like this one that makes the Newsletter Committee realize that all of our hard work is well worth doing. Thank you!*  
-Catherine G. Nelson, Editor

## SPPR NEEDS BOOKS

From the newsletter of the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, we learn that there is a severe shortage of gay and lesbian literature in Israel. Does this surprise anyone? Probably not. If you would like to send materials in response to their desperate plea, mail them to S.P.P.R., P.O.B. 16151, 61161 Tel Aviv, Israel.

## YAHARZEITS

Charles Staub, grandfather of Wendy W.	December 5
Frank Chesir, father of Daniel Chesir	11 Kislev/December
Louis Resnick, grandfather of Mark Resnick	11 Kislev/December 7
Sherman Kalis, brother of Betty Kalis	December 10
Paula Kallman Meyer, grandmother of Nancy Meyer	December 14
Norman David Kramer, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav	December 20
Albert Klein, father of Dov ben Khayyim	December 22
Abraham Carrey, father of Henry Carrey	27 Kislev/December 23
Leo Lutrin, father of Harry Lutrin	December 23
Victoria Lowell, mother of Beauregard Lowell	December 25
A. Martin Lipschutz, father of Marc Lipschutz	December 25
Sam L. Robinson, grandfather of Rob Montague	December 30

## BIRTHDAYS

Linda Cohen	December 1
Penny Daschinger	December 2
Alan Schrager	December 4
Marty Fenstersheib	December 5
George Lucas	December 8
Mark Moskowitz	December 9
Al Cohen	December 11
Walt Leiss	December 12
Seth Shapiro	December 13
Susan Shavin	December 14
Ron Lezell	December 15
Aaron Steiner	December 20
Bob Bienstock	December 21
Leslie Bergson	December 30
Sam Thal	December 31

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